

## PETTUS AGAIN IN HANDS OF POLICE

Insane Murderer Must Serve Term in Colorado Prison.

## CUT WOMAN'S THROAT HERE

Escaped Hanging by Expert Evidence as to His Insanity.

William B. Pettus, alias Will B. Clark, an escaped convict from the Colorado State Penitentiary, and a former Richmonder, was arrested Saturday night in Lexington, Ky., on a charge of defrauding his housekeeper, Willie Lewis, of Richmond early in 1907 and employed as a steamfitter. Pettus went suddenly insane and took his razor and cut the throat of a colored servant woman at his boarding-house, on Nineteenth Street, killing her almost instantly. Leaving the house before assistance could be summoned, he ran the town for two hours or more with the entire police force on the lookout for him. Arriving at a Broad Street department store, at which he had been at work installing a heating apparatus, he found that the foreman had put another man, William A. Smith, an officer in the Salvation Army, in his place. Before fellow-workmen could interfere he jumped on Smith with his knife and inflicted a serious wound in the throat, from which his victim has since recovered.

**Would Kill Three People.** Several police and detectives, who were on his trail, entered the store just as the attack was made, and the man was soon in a cell at the police station, where he showed every symptom of insanity. In an interview that afternoon with newspaper men he said that God had commissioned him to kill three people; that he had killed two, and that he could not rest easy until he had found a third victim, intimating that he had no preference, but would kill the first man he could reach. He was much annoyed when he learned that one of his victims was recovering, asking to be allowed to go out and finish the job. He was indicted for murder, but before being tried a commission of lunacy decided that he was plainly crazy, and he was sent to Eastern State Hospital, at Williamsburg.

Only a few months later he was discharged from that institution, apparently cured, and shortly afterward turned up in Richmond, where the police held that it was not safe to allow him to be at large, and roped him in as a suspicious character, the former charges having been dropped when he was declared a lunatic.

Relatives in Eastern Virginia came to the man's aid, and he was released on condition that he would leave the city, his friends arranging for him to start a new life in Colorado, where he was sent.

**Arrested in Colorado.** Dispatches received here a few months later indicated his arrest and conviction in Colorado for forgery, and he was sentenced to the Colorado Penitentiary at Denver on September 11, 1908. Within a few weeks he effected his escape, and has since been at large, the police of Richmond and other cities having been warned to keep a sharp lookout for him.

Saturday night he was arrested in Lexington, Ky., on a charge of defrauding his housekeeper. When searched, incriminating letters were found on his person, and afterwards he confessed that he had escaped from the Colorado Penitentiary, and also told the officers at the station that while living in Richmond in 1907 he had killed a negro woman by cutting her head almost off, but that he had escaped conviction by pleading insanity. Pettus is twenty-nine years of age, and has a number of relatives in Virginia.

Coroner Taylor said last night that there was no doubt about the fact of the man having been a lunatic at the time of the murder and attack on Smith in Richmond, and that he had been examined by experts at the time he was committed to the asylum.

## WILL DISCUSS WORK FOR BOYS

Dr. Musselman Makes Two Addresses to Parents and Teachers To-day.

Dr. H. T. Musselman, secretary of the American Baptist Publication Society, gave an instructive and interesting address on the subject, "That Boy of Yours," at the Central Young Men's Christian Association yesterday afternoon. The speaker has spent years of study and personal contact with boys, and is recognized as an authority on church work for young people. He was heard with interest by a large audience.

Dr. Musselman said that the first problem confronted in work of this character is to understand the boy and work through his interests. People must realize, he said, that the boy is not a "little man," and that he doesn't see things as a man sees them. He spoke of the "storm and stress" period, approximately from twelve to eighteen years, the period of rapid growth and development, when the boy first becomes conscious of himself as an individual. This is the period of life, said the speaker, when the boy feels that the world is against him, and he begins to think for himself and begins to reconstruct his views of life and of religion.

The important place of gymnastics, athletics, nature study and wood craft at this period was emphasized. This is also, said Dr. Musselman, a time when the boy desires to know the meaning of things and of life itself. The heroic appeals to him, and it is at this period that he is altruistic. It is also the period of temptation, said the speaker, and a time when sympathy and help is needed.

This afternoon at 4:30 o'clock Dr. Musselman will speak to men and women in the Y. M. C. A. hall on "The Psychology of Boy Life, and How to Win a Boy." At 8:20 o'clock his subject will be "The Greatest Evangelistic Opportunity of the Age." The addresses will be open to the public, and will be of especial interest to parents, teachers and those making a study of boy life.

## PETERS RESENTED BLAIR'S REMARKS

Speaker Charged That What City Council Needed Was Ability and Brains.

## CAME NEAR HAVING CLASH

Mutual Explanations Made Later Were Satisfactory, So Incident Is Closed.

Mutual explanations which passed yesterday have closed an incident which for a time threatened a possible rupture between the Chamber of Commerce and the City Council. The difficulty grew out of a rather sharp attack made on the personnel of the Council by former Councilman A. Beirne Blair at the Chamber of Commerce smoker last week. Mr. Blair's remarks were resented at the time by members of Council who were present as guests of the chamber, and explanations were demanded by President Peters, of the lower branch. While these were forthcoming, and the incident is closed, so far as the personal difficulty is concerned, it is probable that President Peters will take occasion to reply to Mr. Blair's remarks on the floor of the Council at some early date. Both declined to make any formal statement as to the difficulty last night.

**Said Council Lacked Brains.** The incident occurred in the closing minutes of the chamber smoker at the Jefferson Auditorium, where Mr. Blair was the last of those who made impromptu speeches.

He talked for some minutes on the necessity for changes in the form of municipal government, the first portion of his remarks meeting entire approval, as many members of the Council, including President Peters, favor some modification and simplification of the existing cumbersome machinery for the government of the city. Mr. Blair went on to intimate that the present Council lacked both brains and ability, statements which were resented by the guests, who considered them ill-timed and unwarranted. When the meeting had adjourned, some words were passed between Mr. Blair and Mr. Peters, in which the president intimated that the Council, during Mr. Blair's incumbency, had not been famous for its intelligence, and that Mr. Blair's personal record as a member of that body would not compare as favorably as to brains with some of the men he now criticized. Further words passed, and but for the intervention of a new and notable that a more serious altercation would have occurred.

Members of the chamber have secured from Mr. Blair assurances that he meant no personal reflection on the members of the Council present, and it is believed that the incident is closed.

## TOO MUCH LAUDANUM

**Physicians Want Law to Prohibit Indiscriminate Sale of Laudanum.** Mrs. Haynes, of 117 North Nineteenth Street, came near losing her life Saturday night from an overdose of laudanum, which was administered to her by a drug store. After friends in the house discovered her in almost a comatose condition, a call was sent for the city ambulance, and Dr. Carr responded. He administered heroic treatment, and worked over the woman for some time before being able to restore her to consciousness. She was then taken to the City Hospital.

The ambulance physicians have had much trouble in attending to laudanum poisoning cases, and it has been suggested that a law prohibiting its sale except on the prescription of a physician be enacted. There have been several instances in which people have come near losing their lives from laudanum purchased from drug stores without prescription. Yet the poison is still sold indiscriminately, and anybody has free access to it.

## FREE BRIDGE

**Joint Committee From Richmond and Manchester to Meet.** Weary of the long delays which have attended the plan for the consolidation of the Richmond and Manchester bridges, a joint committee from Richmond and Manchester to take up the question of repairing or replacing the Free Bridge, which will be held at the City Hall in Richmond to-morrow night at 8 o'clock. It is expected that a definite plan will be drawn up looking to the erection of a new and adequate bridge on the site of the present Free Bridge.

## IF YOU WINK FOUR TIMES YOU WILL GET ONE GALLON

And if Your Name Is John Smith There's Some Liquor for You at Hundreds of Express Offices in Very Dry Towns—How Jug Trade Prospers.

"While sojourning a few days in prohibition country down South, the thing that struck me most was the volume of the jug trade," said a Richmond man who came in from the direction of Atlanta last night. "And I am convinced that old John Barleycorn is the star traveler. While waiting at a station on the main line, I saw two honored names, two fast travelers from the East came in and it was with the greatest amount of interest that I stood by and saw them unload those liquid refreshments. Curiously enough, two strangers watched me, both declaring that what we saw was the volume of the jug trade at the Carolina and Georgia stations in the hands of blind tiger dealers. John Smith was the leading offender, and I thought of the sins that were committed in his name. Also I thought of the highballs and headaches."

"There did it come from? Everywhere, Virginia, mainly. There were many Virginia packages, some from Washington, and not a few from New York. The old-fashioned jug in a pasteboard box, with the sign 'Handle with Care,' was conspicuous, while on

## LIVING EXAMPLE TO ALL SECTIONS

Minister Commends Spirit of Patience Displayed by Outraged Citizens of Powhatan.

## HOW IT GOES ELSEWHERE

Orderly Conduct Contrasted Strongly with Race Riots and Mob Violence in North.

In his sermon yesterday morning, the Rev. W. C. James, pastor of Grove Avenue Baptist Church, referred in the most complimentary terms to the law-abiding spirit manifested by the people of Powhatan county toward the two convicted murderers of Walter G. Johnson and Mrs. Mary E. Skipwith, who were killed in their home, "Southeast," on the night of February 12, and contrasted it strongly with the action of the citizens of Springfield, Ill., and Wilmington, Del., where race riots resulted from the crimes of the negroes, and with the action of the people of his own State, Texas, who recently lynched a negro for the usual crime.

Mr. James said that the case should be commented on by the press over the whole country, and that every Commonwealth in the Union should know that in a Southern State every protection that the law could afford was thrown about negroes charged with the worst outrage since the massacre by Nat Turner and his gang.

**The Spirit of Patience.** He said that the Powhatan citizens showed a remarkable spirit of patience and long-suffering, even after all the details of the crime had been learned, and there was no doubt left that Isham Taylor, Joe Taylor and Lewis Jenkins, who had fed from the hands of Mrs. Skipwith, were the guilty ones. He said that the citizens of Powhatan should know that John and William Brown were parties to the outrage, and laughed and joked while the house was burning over the dead bodies.

That the law was allowed to take its course under such circumstances showed that the law was ready at any moment to protect the friends from violence, was, he said, nothing short of remarkable, and the action of the people should be a good example in other sections of the country. The chief lesson to be drawn from his remarks was that in the South the negro receives more aid and protection from the white people than are afforded him anywhere else in the country. In the North and West wars of extermination had been started by angry and riotous white people, and innocent negroes were taken from their homes in Virginia, after one of the worst outrages in her history, not a single hand had been raised against five negroes convicted of premeditated double murder and arson, and not a word conducive to riotous conduct was uttered.

The two Taylors and Jenkins are now in the Farmville jail, and the two Browns are in the Henrico county jail. Within fifteen days they will be taken to the penitentiary, and on April 30, between 6 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock at night, they will die in the electric chair, one after the other.

## GOT IN WRONG PLACE

Stranger Thought Judge Witt Presided Over Hospital Court.

"Is the judge in?" "Yes, he is in." This question was asked of a pretty, white-capped nurse at the Memorial Hospital Saturday, when she responded to a ring from the doorbell at the side entrance.

In the course of events it happened there was a judge—an ill one—in the institution, and forthwith she admitted the stranger, who was apparently about fifty years old, and went to ask the superintendent's permission. She returned quickly.

"Yes, he's in," she said, "but he's too ill to be seen."

"Ill!" exclaimed the stranger, in surprise. "That's too bad. How long since?"

"I think he came in yesterday."

"Poor Sam."

This let out the secret of a misunderstanding.

"What judge did you want to see?" asked the nurse.

"Sam Witt, my old college chum," replied the stranger. "Ain't this the City Hall?"

There was hearty laughter, and the obliging young woman pointed out the building one square away.

A follow up the street told me to keep going until I found a big white building, and I did it."

Whether or not the schoolmates ever met is not divulged.

Attorneys Interested in securing a pardon for E. W. Overbey, formerly cashier of the Bank of Mecklenburg in Boydton, who was recently convicted of sending false statements of the bank's condition to the State Corporation Commission, and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary, are preparing papers in the case and will present them to Governor Swanson.

One of the lawyers, who was leading counsel for Overbey in both his trials, was in Richmond several days ago, and while here spent some time in discussing the case with members of the jury, all of whom were selected from this city. "I don't think the Governor will grant our petition immediately," said the attorney, in discussing the case, "but I do feel confident he will sign the papers after Overbey has served a few months of his term."

"I visited my client in his cell to-day, and I have never seen a man so much changed in so short a time. He doesn't look, either in appearance or manner, to be the man he was before his trouble. The expenses of the trials took every cent the man had, free to Mecklenburg, and there start life anew, with a determination to regain the confidence his fellowmen formerly imposed in him."

Governor Swanson has already given strong reasons why he cannot interfere, and in spite of this renewed effort in this city of the prisoner, it is not believed that any pardon will be granted.

## LOOKED SQUARELY IN BURGLAR'S FACE

West Grace Street Startled by Intruder Who Was Seeking Money.

## QUIETLY WALKED OUT OF DOOR

Policemen Hurried to Lassiter Home After Unknown Negro Had Escaped.

Coming downstairs to answer the call of his sister, Miss Ethel Lassiter, Roland Lassiter, son of C. K. Lassiter, of 1847 West Grace Street, was startled last night to see a six-foot negro burglar standing in front of him. For a second they gazed at each other, and then the young man ran into the front parlor, where his sister was sitting.

The negro left also, going out a little side door, through which he evidently effected his entrance. A. W. Folkes, who was talking to Miss Lassiter, telephoned for the police, and two officers were sent at once in the automobile patrol. The house and premises were searched, but no further trace of the burglar was found.

Miss Lassiter and a small sister were very much frightened, but neither made an outcry. Miss Lassiter heard some one come downstairs and tiptoe to the rear of the house, and called to her brother to see who it was. He came down behind the negro, and the two met face to face. The man had a cap pulled down low over his forehead, but Mr. Lassiter could not tell whether he was armed. The burglar had evidently been in the house some time, but nothing was found to be missing.

Early in the week the young people had nearly \$500 in the house, and it is supposed that some negro who has heard of the money being there and was well acquainted with the premises was the burglar. He came in through a little side door in the rear of the house. The door had been left unlocked, but young Mr. Lassiter locked it shortly before 9 o'clock, when the negro was inside. The latter, when he left, merely turned the key and went out.

Several people in the neighborhood were attracted by the excitement, and all added in the search for the house-breaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Lassiter are in Philadelphia, but are expected to return to-day. Miss Lassiter, her brother and little sister were the only ones left in the house.

## TALK TO STUDENTS

Secretary of Harvard Corporation Will Address High School.

Jerome D. Green, secretary of the Harvard Corporation, who is accompanying President Eliot on his Southern trip, will lecture to the students of the Richmond High School at 9 o'clock this morning. He will be introduced by Professor Clement C. Read, Harvard, 97, instructor in Latin at the school.

Mr. Green's subject will be "College Education." After his address he will be escorted to Richmond College, where President Eliot speaks at 9 o'clock, by Professor Read, Principal Harwood and Professor Dickey, of the college.

## PREPARE PARDON FOR E. W. OVERBEY

Attorneys Will Bring Papers Signed by Many Citizens to Governor.

Attorneys interested in securing a pardon for E. W. Overbey, formerly cashier of the Bank of Mecklenburg in Boydton, who was recently convicted of sending false statements of the bank's condition to the State Corporation Commission, and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary, are preparing papers in the case and will present them to Governor Swanson.

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## The Unintentional Matchmaker



MRS. J. H. GILL.

## NOT EVEN A CROSS WORD BY THOSE WHO WED ON SPECIAL

Worried with the cares of the big institution over which she presides, Mrs. Gill was called to the telephone exactly sixty-seven times up to 9 o'clock last night to satisfy some yearning heart. Crowded away in one of the many pages of The Times-Dispatch yesterday was a little morsel of news that her matrimonial excursion would leave for Washington on April 12.

"Everybody must have read that paper," said Mrs. Gill last night, "for they have been after me all day—most of them girls. They wanted full details, where the preacher would sit, and if a marriage license was issued with every railroad ticket. Say, I'm running that excursion to help take better care of my orphan boys, and as it seems to be the proper thing socially to get married on these trips, they have become well established in the cause of right."

That Mrs. Gill was asked how many couples had been married since they started those excursions, "Two hundred and eighty-five couples," she answered without leaving the telephone. Come and make it 286. 21-voices? Upon my soul, the idea. No. Why, young man, there has not even been a cross word, not a quarrel,

not a threat to go back to mother. There is a charm about it, or at least it seems that way, and I am thinking of having a reunion, with the husbands, wives and children. It would be a great picnic, and I want a group picture taken."

Mrs. Gill is a very practical woman, with an eye to business when it concerns the welfare of the boys at the Male Orphan Asylum. "Think of the simplicity of the thing!" she added. "The men don't have to buy frock coats, or rent them, either. Then the girl doesn't need a trousseau. There is no carriage bill to pay, no link buttons to be bought by the groom to give his groomsmen, and no flowers. The only thing they miss are the presents, and that's a small loss when you remember that none of these special brides ever have a harsh word thrown at her. That is where the value comes in. Call it a matrimonial train or whatnot, so long as you are careful in stating that these are blissful matches. And occasionally, we carry an interest."

Being a careful student of hymenomania, Mrs. Gill's experience has shown the value of running those trains the day after Easter and Lent.

Business Men's Luncheon. Besides Dr. Eliot, there will be four other speakers who will discuss briefly subjects of public interest. William L. Royce will speak on "Control of Trusts" and W. S. McNeill on "The Passing of the Solid South." John Skelton Williams and A. Caperton Braxton will be the other speakers.

Among the guests are Judge James Keith, J. E. Pace, John P. Branch, K. B. Ryan, Judge D. C. Grinnard, John H. Ingram, A. H. Christian, Judge R. Carter Scott, J. D. Patton, S. D. Morgan, R. G. Reynolds, R. H. Smith, Nelson Robins, Ashton Starke, Decatur Axtell, James N. Boyd, W. R. Meredith, J. E. Willard, Archer Anderson, W. Gordon McCabe, H. Page, Judge S. B. Witt, Dr. E. W. Boatwright, S. D. Crenshaw, Allen Potts, W. W. Morton, A. B. Williams, Harry Frazier, R. E. Cabell, Governor Claude A. Swanson, Jerome D. Green, B. Ran Wellford, Dr. A. L. Wellford, Robert E. Scott, W. P. Dickey, Judge D. C. Grinnard, George Phillips, Charles Hutzler, G. B. Wall, E. G. Leigh, Jr., and T. C. Williams, Jr. The committee for the luncheon is W. S. McNeill, F. W. Scarborough and John H. Lyons.

**To High School Students.** Jerome D. Green, secretary of the Harvard Corporation, who is accompanying President Eliot on this trip, will address the students of the Richmond High School at the hour of opening this morning. Mr. Green has recently returned from a trip through the West, where he met various Harvard Alumni Association.

President Eliot will leave for Washington at 8:40 o'clock to-morrow morning. While there he will continue the strenuous life that has characterized his visit to this city. He will deliver an address at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and will be accompanied by a large number of delegates on a platform that night at a banquet at which President Taft will also be present.

Lowenstein is wanted for a series of forgeries alleged to have been committed in Prussia last spring, and involving amounts aggregating \$25,000. The prisoner is now regarded as a person of great value to the government, and he is believed to have been deceived into the commission of the offenses by a fellow countryman, leads the government authorities here to believe he will make interesting disclosures if he is ever brought to trial.

**Many Flight Extradition.** E. K. Victor, the German consul, who placed nine warrants for Lowenstein's arrest in the hands of United States Marshal Treat, says he expects to receive papers of extradition within the next few days, and although it is probable the alleged fugitive will seek to remain in this country, the authorities do not think they will have any difficulty in taking him across the Atlantic.

Besides, Lowenstein claims to be a pauper, and as the expenses incident to a flight against extradition would be large, it is not thought he will be able to secure an attorney to take his case. He was arrested while working in a bakery.

Another unusual circumstance arising in the case is that no one seems able to tell who will accompany the prisoner to Germany. A foreign official will probably bring the papers to Richmond, and then some one will be designated by the Department of Justice.

Deputy Marshal Murphy, who located and arrested Lowenstein after a search of several weeks, may take the trip; but these questions will not be decided until Consul Victor receives instructions from abroad. There is said to be intense feeling against the alleged forger in the community where the crimes were committed, as his victims were people of moderate circumstances, who were made paupers as a result of the transactions.

**Jeffersons at the Richmond.** Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jefferson, William W. Jefferson, Miss Rosa Rand, Leo Lane and L. W. Donalds, who will be seen at the Academy of Music to-night in "The Rivals," reached the city yesterday afternoon. They registered at the Richmond Hotel.

**Membership Canvass.** A rally of the workers in the membership campaign of the Central Young Men's Christian Association will be held at the association building to-night, when there will be reports from all the teams on the progress of the work. The canvass for members will close to-morrow night.

## EIGHT ADDRESSES PUBLIC TO-NIGHT

Will Discuss Municipal Reform in Chapel of Richmond College.

## MEET BUSINESS MEN TO-DAY

Representative Citizens Will Welcome Harvard's President at Commonwealth Club.

Just now, when sweeping changes are proposed in the local city government, and municipal questions are being widely discussed, special interest attaches to the address of President Charles W. Eliot, of Harvard University, on "Municipal Problems," which will be delivered to-night at 8 o'clock in the public hall at Richmond College. Unlike his other speeches here, this one will be open to the public. Dr. Eliot is one of the highest authorities in the United States on the subject he will discuss. It is expected that many members of the city government will be present. The committee in whose hands the proposed changes rests will certainly attend.

Since his arrival in the city Saturday night Dr. Eliot has been entertained by the men who were educated at Harvard. The arrangements have been principally in the hands of Professor W. P. Dickey, of Richmond College. Almost constantly he has been accompanied by several Virginia alumni of Harvard, who have showed him every attention.

**Attended St. Paul's.** Yesterday morning President Eliot, accompanied by Mrs. Eliot, attended services at St. Paul's Church, where Rev. W. Russell Bowie, of Greenwood, formerly of this city, and a graduate of Harvard in 1904, preached the sermon. At 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon he spoke to the students of Virginia Union University (colored). As generally when addressing a colored school, Dr. Eliot confined his remarks in the main to the subject of what is best for the race and what branches of education will best tend to increase the usefulness of the negro, both as a race and as a citizen. He strongly advocated the manual training feature, which is so largely entering into the education of the colored race. The audience was a large one, being made up of many besides the members of the faculty and the students.

At 10:30 o'clock this morning President Eliot will make a special address to the faculty and students of Richmond College. At 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon he will be the guest of the business men of the city at a luncheon to be given at the Commonwealth Club. Though this will be one of the most interesting affairs given in honor of Dr. Eliot's visit, it will be informal. The guests will be invited by the hands of business men who went to Harvard.

**Business Men's Luncheon.** Besides Dr. Eliot, there will be four other speakers who will discuss briefly subjects of public interest. William L. Royce will speak on "Control of Trusts" and W. S. McNeill on "The Passing of the Solid South." John Skelton Williams and A. Caperton Braxton will be the other speakers.

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## HAS BILL TO PUT TAX ON BACHELORS

Richmond Candidate Declares That He Can Win Easily on That Platform.

Not being willing to give the women the right of suffrage, but something equally as attractive, a leading politician somewhat startled the natives around Murphy's last night by declaring that he would enter the race for the House of Delegates on a platform, the principal plank of which is taxation for bachelors. "I have already framed the bill," he said, "and I believe it will meet popular favor in Virginia. If we had a few laws of this character, there might be less of this suffrage agitation. Besides, it is just and proper."

When asked to explain how the law would affect those who had tried and failed, the candidate was not prepared to speak. "If the man can bring proof in the shape of an affidavit he might not be liable to the tax," he said at length, "though my idea is to punish all without giving any a chance. Don't you know I will win on that platform? All the married men will vote for me just to get even with the more fortunate ones. All the women will demand my election. It's a cinch, especially when you remember that the married men will come loyally to my support simply to get a crimp into those who have escaped the responsibilities. That is where I expect to win."

Later, it was explained that the candidate had been married three times.